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TUESDAY
AUGUST 11, 1953

Hot and sunny. Saw John Brown this morning and signed a contract with the publishers to put my book on the Presidents into English. I am to pay 1,250,000 francs for printing of the first thousand volumes and 250,000 francs per thousand thereafter. Of receipts, I am to get 80 percent and the publishers 20 percent.

John Hughes and I had lunch today at Boilaive on Rue St. Martin.

The strikes have further aggravated the communications situation. It now looks probable that tomorrow there will be no subway, autobus, or railroad operations, and gas and electricity may be cut off. Failure to receive correspondence is affecting factories, English tourists have been warned against visiting France where already many of them are stranded, tens of thousands of Frenchmen are unable through lack of transportation to take their customary August vacations -- altogether the country is in grave trouble. The attempts on the part of the Government to alleviate the critical economic and financial pressures have been almost disastrously impaired.

Tonight we dined at the Geoffrey Parsons', with Stewart Alsop, Charles Gombaud (Paris Presse), Bettine Ballard, the Boisgelins (she a beautiful Pole), and Drew Dudley. After dinner the men had an animated discussion on European integration, the anti-American feeling in France, the anti-French feeling in the United States, and like cheerful subjects. Stewart believes, as a result of his current European tour, the European Army project is dead. I tried to convince him that there is a high degree of vitality in the body and I am to see him again tomorrow at the office.

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